IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Original): A lipase activity inhibitor consisting of a high-molecular weight polyphenol fraction isolated from oolong tea.

Claim 2 (Original): The lipase activity inhibitor according to claim 1, wherein the high-molecular weight polyphenol fraction isolated from oolong tea is either a liquid fraction or a concentrated or dried form thereof, the liquid fraction being obtained by a process in which an aqueous extract of oolong tea is brought into contact with an adsorbent selected from the group consisting of activated charcoal and an adsorbent resin, whereby non-polymerized catechins are selectively removed to enhance the ratio of polymerized catechins to the non-polymerized catechins.

Claim 3 (Original): The lipase activity inhibitor according to claim 2, wherein the non-polymerized catechins are selectively removed by bringing the extract of oolong tea into contact with the adsorbent as the extract is held at a temperature of at least 50°C.

Claim 4 (Original): A method in which an aqueous liquid containing polymerized catechins and non-polymerized catechins is brought into contact with an adsorbent selected from the group consisting of activated charcoal and an adsorbent resin as the aqueous liquid is held at a temperature of at least 50°C, whereby the non-polymerized catechins are selectively removed so that the ratio of the polymerized catechins to the non-polymerized catechins is made higher than in the original aqueous liquid.

Claim 5 (Original): The method according to claim 4, which is performed by filling a column with the adsorbent selected from the group consisting of activated charcoal and an

adsorbent resin, passing an aqueous extract of tea leaves through the column in an amount 5-10 times the capacity of the column, recovering the effluent from the column, and optionally concentrating or drying the effluent.

Claim 6 (Original): The method according to claim 5, wherein a liquid extracted from oolong tea with slightly alkaline lukewarm water is passed through the column.

Claim 7 (Currently amended): An aqueous, wet or dry composition that has been produced by the method according to claim 4 ~~any one of claims 4-6~~ to have an enhanced ratio of the polymerized catechins to the non-polymerized catechins.

Claim 8 (Original): A tea extract in which the amount of polymerized catechin relative to non-polymerized catechin is at least four times as much.

Claim 9 (Original): The tea extract according to claim 8, which is an oolong tea extract.

Claim 10 (Currently amended): A lipase activity inhibitor containing the composition ~~according to~~ of claim 7 or the tea extract ~~according to any one of claims~~ of claim 8 ~~and 9~~.

Claim 11 (Currently amended): The lipase activity inhibitor according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1, 2, 3 and 10~~ which is used to suppress the absorption of dietary lipids and subsequent rise of triglyceride in blood.

Claim 12 (Currently amended): A food or beverage additive comprising the composition ~~according to~~ of claim 7 or the tea extract ~~according to any one of claims~~ of claim 8 ~~and 9~~.

Claim 13 (Original): The food or beverage additive according to claim 12 which is added to foods or beverages to suppress the absorption of dietary lipids and subsequent rise of triglyceride in blood.

Claim 14 (Currently amended): A food or drink containing the composition of ~~according to~~ claim 7 or the tea extract ~~according to any one of claims~~ of claim 8 ~~and 9~~.

Claim 15 (Original): The food or drink according to claim 14 which is either a health food or a health drink.

Claim 16 (Original): The drink according to claim 14 which is a tea drink.

Claim 17 (Currently amended): The drink according to claim 16 which is a mixture of a tea extract and the composition ~~according to~~ of claim 7 or the tea extract ~~according to any one of claims~~ of claim 8 ~~and 9~~.

Claim 18 (Original): The drink according to claim 17, wherein the extract is an extract of oolong tea.

Claim 19 (Currently amended): The drink according to claim 18 ~~any one of claims 14-18~~, wherein the polymerized catechins in 1 L of the drink are enriched to have a value of 270-3600 mg as analyzed by high-performance liquid chromatography.